

**Religion
Life
State of Mind
Wealth
Dignity**

5 Universal Necessities in Life

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THE PRESERVATION OF THE CORRECT WAY OF LIFE

To live our lives in the correct way is indeed a necessity in life. We need to follow the path that has been shown to us by the Creator of life, the Creator of all things; Allāh, who stated in His Book: **“Such is Allāh, your Lord! None has the right to be worshipped but He, the Creator of all things. So worship Him (Alone), and He is the Guardian over all things...”** (The Noble Qur’ān 6:106)

Every being has a purpose and the most knowledgeable of that purpose has to be The One who created that being. He is The One that said: **“And I (Allāh) did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me alone.”** (51:56). Allāh also said: **“Truly, the only religion (and way of life) with Allāh is Islām.”** (3:19). Therefore, Islām preserves this necessity of religion in many ways:

1. By the revelation of the Qur’ān. The revelation sent to man by the Creator of man, The Creator of life. Allah, The Creator of the Heavens and earth said: **“We have sent down to you the Book as a clarification for all things.”** (16:89) Allāh also said: **“Verily, this Qur’ān guides to that which is most just and right and gives glad tidings to the believers.”** (17:19)
2. By Allāh sending the finality of the Prophets and Messengers, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) as a mercy and an example of how to practice Islām correctly. **“And We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a giver of glad tidings and a warner to all mankind, but most of men know not.”**(34:28) All the Prophets and Messengers taught their people to implement monotheism; to worship Allāh alone. **“And verily, We have sent among every, nation a Messenger proclaiming: Worship Allāh Alone, and or keep away from all false deities..”**(16:36)
3. Islām preserves religion by taking people away from worshipping the creation to worshipping the Creator of the creation. **“Prostrate not to the sun nor to the moon, but prostrate to Allāh Who created them, if you (really) worship Him.”** (41:36).

ISLĀM SAFEGUARDS LIFE AND PHYSICAL SAFETY

The importance of the human life is emphasised by Allāh. He, the Most High said: **“And indeed We have honoured the Children of Ādam, and We have carried them on land and sea, and have provided them with lawful good things, and have preferred them above many of those whom We have created with a marked preference.”** (17:70)

1. Allāh prohibits unlawful killings and harm to human life in all situations including murder, manslaughter and terrorism. Allāh said **“And do not kill yourselves (nor kill one another). Surely, Allāh is Most Merciful to you.”** (4:29).

He also said: **“...do not kill children because of poverty - We provide sustenance for you and for them.”** (6:151).

Allāh has legislated punishment for unlawful killings and by this, life is preserved. He also said: **“And there is for you in legal retribution [saving of] life, O you [people] of understanding, that you may become righteous.”** (2:179).

2. Islām prohibits exposing oneself to harm. Allāh said: **“and do not throw yourselves into destruction.”** (2:195)

3. The Khārijites (renegades) and terrorists were labelled as “The dogs of the hellfire” over fourteen centuries ago by the final Messenger of Allāh, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) due to their thirst for blood and unlawful killings. This is a warning for everyone not to follow in their footsteps. In this, there is the safeguarding of innocent lives.

ISLĀM PRESERVES THE MIND AND INTELLECT



This is shown by the prohibition of alcohol, and the consumption of all intoxicants in Islām. Allāh said: **“O you who believe, indeed, intoxicants, gambling, [sacrificing on] stone alters [to other than Allāh], and divining arrows are but defilement work of Satan, so avoid it that you may be successful.”** (5:90)

One only need look at the harms of intoxicants, to see the rationale behind their prohibition. **“Satan wants only to excite enmity and hatred between you with intoxicants and gambling.”** (5:91). The prohibition of alcohol and intoxicants safeguards the mind keeping it healthy and sound. It also prevents loss of life due to drink-driving, illnesses and alcohol influenced brawls.

Islām encourages everyone to read and seek knowledge. By this, health of mind is preserved. Allāh The Most High said: **“Read! In the Name of your Lord, who has created (all that exists). Has created man from a clot (a piece of thick coagulated blood). Read! And your Lord is the Most Generous. Who has taught (the writing) by the pen. (Who) has taught man that which he did not know.”** (96:1-5)

Islām encourages man to reflect and use their faculties of thinking to contemplate regarding the creation of the heavens, the earth and indeed themselves. This in turn maintains a healthy state of the mind and will draw the individual to fulfil the unified purpose of humankind; to worship their Creator alone. Allāh said: **"He it is who sends down water (rain) from the sky; from it you drink and from it (grows) the vegetation on which you send your cattle to pasture; with it He causes to grow for you the crops, the olives, the date-palms, the grapes, and every kind of fruit. Verily! In this is indeed an evident proof and a manifest sign for people who give thought."** (16:10-12)



ISLĀM PRESERVES WEALTH AND PROPERTY

As wealth is a major necessity, Islām also focuses on safeguarding this necessary aspect of life. Islām commands lawful business transactions and prohibits usury. Allāh, The Most High said: **"Allāh has permitted trading and forbidden usury"** (2:175).

Allāh has prohibited trickery, bribery, cheating and fraudulent behaviour. He said: **"And O my people! Give full measure and weight in justice and reduce not the things that are due to the people, and do not commit mischief in the land, causing corruption."** (11:85)

And He also said: **"Woe those who give less in measure and weight (decrease the rights of others)]."** (83:1)

Allāh also said in His book: **"And do not consume one another's property unjustly that you may knowingly eat up a part of the property of others sinfully."** (2:188).

These admonitions have been legislated to safeguard the wealth of both the rich and the poor.

In Islām, there are many rulings regarding permissible and impermissible trading based on the principle **"There should be neither harming nor reciprocating harm."** In any given transaction, no party should be oppressed in any way. "The Messenger of Allāh (peace and blessings be upon him) prohibited the Gharār sale...". The "Gharār" sale is the transaction that involves injustice or harm to any given party's wealth. An example of this is; **"selling fish whilst it is still (uncaptured) in the sea"**. In other words, selling that which you do not possess. This would be an impermissible transaction as the buyer's wealth is at great risk, as they may never see the product. This could leave them empty handed, in an oppressed state. Islām came to eliminate such oppression by laying down precise legislation in trade. With these laws, wealth and property are safeguarded.

ISLĀM PRESERVES HONOUR AND DIGNITY



This is exemplified by various divine legislations found in Qur'ān and prophetic traditions. Allāh has prohibited fornication. This not only safeguards lineage and ancestry, but it also preserves one's honour and dignity. He said: **“Do not approach fornication; surely it is an indecency, and an evil way.”** (17:32)

In the preservation of people's dignity and honour, Allāh has prohibited false accusations and defamation. He, the Most High said: **“And those who harm believing men and believing women for [something] other than what they have committed have certainly born upon themselves a slander and manifest sin.”** (33:58)

In Islām, it is prohibited to mock, insult or verbally abuse others. Allāh, The Creator of the Heavens and earth, said: **“O you who believe! Let not a group scoff at another group, it may be that the latter are better than the former; nor let (some) women scoff at other women, it may be that the latter are better than the former, nor defame one another, nor insult one another by nicknames. How bad is it, to insult one's brother after having faith.”** (49:11)

The dignity and honour of one's parents is held sacred in Islām. Allāh has mentioned this affair second only to the affair of worshipping Him alone without any partners. He said: **“And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him. And that you be dutiful to your parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age in your life, say not to them a word of disrespect, nor shout at them but address them in terms of honour.”** (17:23) And He said: **“And We have enjoined on man (to be dutiful and good) to his parents. His mother bore him in weakness and hardship upon weakness and hardship, and his weaning is in two years (so) give thanks to Me and to your parents, unto Me is the final destination.”** (31:14)

Allāh has legislated Islām for the preservation of these five universal necessitates; religion, life, the mind, wealth and dignity.



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